

**Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
Minutes – September 25, 2015**

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Present: Members: Ann Letendre, Ginny Gingras, Joe King, George Arthur
Staff: Bruce Dinnie, Director P&R; Dave Smith, Town Engineer

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Ann Letendre, following the Friends HRLP meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes of May and August 14th, 2015 deferred to next meeting.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas

- a. Dart Hill South to Lyman Bridge – some areas eroded, needs work.
- b. Dart Hill North to WPCA OK
- c. Walgreen Corner OK
- d. Saxony Mill Park OK
- e. Paper Mill Corner Park OK
- f. West Main St OK
- g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) OK
- h.

C. Current Projects – Status

- a. **Friends HRLP Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk:** Ann reported that the two-year extension to Jan 8, 2018 has been granted from DEEP. Dave noted that the DEEP engineer had called him regarding the suspension bridge project (Indiana Jones Bridge), is interested in the project and would like to participate. At the boardwalk site Dave will contract with a soil scientist to get the wetlands mapped so that the parking area can be sited.
- b. **Lyman Farm Development** See Arthur report below. Development of Lyman Farm site will incorporate the Pleasantview Trail, covered by the Friends HRLP grant. The HRLP Committee met with Bill Griffin and Patrick O'Leary of VHP who is doing the civil engineering work for the developers. It was a positive meeting, the Committee is pleased that construction will be kept about 400 feet from the Hockanum.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications -

- a. Rockville Heritage Trail Extension – Talcott Park – no discussion
- b. 19 Grove Street – Area has been cleared by Town; Ann reported she walked the front part of the site, it's a great potential for waterfront park. Need to get a good park designer. Good possibility for Rec Trail grant funds.

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education - No activity

- F. Blueways Trail – Ann will contact Jerry Kinsman to arrange walk for committee to look at cleared areas.

3. New Business –

- a. Ed Dresner Memorial – Ginny will re-arrange a new time

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am, motion by Ginny, second by George.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Letendre, Chairperson

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VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

May 22, 2015 to September 25, 2015

Mulch Plantings

Did mulching of final two plantings that we maintain in late May and mid-June.

Mural Project at Route 84 Underpass

July had progression in getting the middle school kids involved in three ground level locations on the mural. Made progress on mural in general with some learning set backs. Had two taggers hit. The first before any protective silicone was applied so art work needed to be redone. The second was after some silicone had been applied. Cleaned off silicone areas with goof off but didn't learn until later that silicone needed to cure for at least one week before chemicals could be used without damaging mural. Purchased a power washer with grant money for future cleaning of tagging. August was a wasted month as very little was done. Labor Day weekend was big. Had six artists in on Saturday and Monday and four on Sunday. Some work done the following week. Mural now has 85% to 90% of wall space covered with art. Still need to do transitions from one art work to another and patch some of the tagging that had occurred in July. Having some trouble getting the silicone from Sherwin Williams as they seem to be having trouble ordering it. All of the ground level areas that are completed have been covered with silicone and when we can get delivery will do the middle and high areas, as well. Got Community Officer Grecko involved. Will contact him if any future tagging. Will have another committee meeting on October 14 to decide when to order the dedication plaque, when the mural will be done and when to do dedication.

Work Teams

Trail Maintenance Team had eleven work parties on the Rail Trail and one at Dart Hill South Stone Dust Trail. Due to current early dusk the work parties ceased as of last week. Weed Whacking Team again emphasized Dart Hill North and South. We were limited to one person at Dart Hill South (Rob Grasis) two (myself and Jeff Schmidt) at Dart Hill North. Joe King helped on one occasion.

PRB Magazine

Bruce had me submit a write-up on the Vernon Greenways Volunteers to PRB magazine. It is an industry publication for Parks and Recreation organizations across the country. We were just notified that they will be running something on the Vernon Greenways Volunteers including photos from our web page in a future edition.

Arthur Report

August 14 to September 25, 2015

- A. I had a meeting on 9-22-2015 with Bill Griffin of Talbot (?) Partners LLC regarding the pending development of the former Lyman East property 03-0004-00009. I supplied background historical HRLP documents; property maps and aerial photos; and three talking points:
1. The bridge across the Hockanum on the Lyman farm property needs to be inspected and made safe for trail users.

2. An easement for the trail on the Lyman East property would insure usage by the Town.
3. An access trail connecting the HRLP trail to Talcottville Road (Rt83) bus stop would be highly desirable for people that lack transportation. It could also provide some trailhead parking and it could connect to Lyman East property users. This would increase the opportunity for public enjoyment of this wonderful river trail.

Currently there is a path that goes east from the bridge 415 ft to the cleared area on Lyman East. It joins a dirt forest road, just before the clearing, that turns south for 400 ft. From some point on that road, It might be possible to continue a path easterly (that parallels the south boundary of the property) and arrives at Rt 83 near the currently unused gas station.

B. Bill was prepared to discuss the same talking points and basically agreed with them. He provided a draft map dated August 17, 2015. We discussed each point as follows:

1. They (developers) will provide an easement to Vernon for the bridge. They might assist with the inspection and upgrade.
2. They will provide an easement to Vernon for new HRLP trail that goes south along the river's east bank from the bridge to the Town property 03-0004-00028.
3. They will provide an easement for and will construct a vehicular road from Rt 83 westerly along the south border to connect to an access trail. They might construct limited parking – perhaps for 6 cars.

They will also provide an easement for an access trail from the parking (along the route described in italics above) to the bridge. He agreed that I could start clearing this trail.

I marked the August 17, 2015 map with this information and scanned the marked portion – it is included with this report.

C. Bill explained the contents of the existing draft map. There are four retail buildings positioned along the front (east) boundary facing Rt 83. A restaurant and a bank are included. The remainder of the property that is currently cleared, will contain nine upscale apartment buildings with a total capacity for 300 units; parking; one club house with a pool; and one storm-water management area. The property to the south of the existing tree line is mostly wetlands and floodway and will be left as is. The HRLP activity described in B will be in this area. The access trail will not be in designated wetlands, but the main HRLP trail will be.

We discussed what the next actions should be.

- The draft map will be revised to incorporate the above discussions.
- Meetings will be held with Bruce Dinnie and the HRLP Committee to verify agreement and/or incorporate further items.
- Additional meetings with other Vernon officials/committees will be held as needed. Final drawings will be prepared and approved.
- Construction will commence.